

# The Goodwill Messenger

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Ministry: All of us

Church Office: 634-5508

Service 10:00 AM, 1st & 3rd Sundays

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[cummingtonvillagechurch.org](http://cummingtonvillagechurch.org)

*Village Church—Open and Affirming—You are welcome here*

## Candle at the Window: Pastor's Message

Wherever we go, people are talking about the shootings in Buffalo and Uvalde. Sometimes we sense also a feeling of not being able to have one more conversation. Have you had times of heartache and helplessness, of wanting to do something and not knowing what?

Poet Anne Yeomans created a poem with the names and ages of the children in Texas, including Eliahana, Layla, Uziyah, Xavier. I held her poem and read each name, then touched their faces in the newspaper report.

Something to do. May 25th, on the second anniversary of the murder of George Floyd, there were standouts in twelve locations along the major roads in Franklin County. Holding a sign on Route 2, I heard some cars honk support while other drivers signaled disapproval.

Back ten years ago at the time of the Sandy Hook school shooting, I remember learning the news from the radio as I drove at night. I stopped my car alongside the road and wrote a song for children as I was crying. How could I find words that might lend support to children of any school in the country?

To my shock a month later I actually got to sing that song in Sandy Hook to a gymnasium full of families. To create a program for healing, children's dance programs from the area had combined, and I was there as a representative of the Children's Music Network. I stepped up to the microphone and felt the close feeling in the room. You could hear a pin drop. I didn't need to introduce the song or explain it was written for them.

Hold hands and stick together.

Hold hands when something shatters.

Hold hands. You're not alone now.

Hold hands. Our hearts matter.

We breathed together. We felt the shattering and also felt the heart power in the room. I bring the lyrics to you today as we all work with our helplessness and our heartache.

What can we do to hold hands? How do we support the children?

Rev. Sarah Pirtle

## Quaker Meeting

There will be a Quaker meeting at The Village Church on Sunday June 26 at 10 AM.

If weather permits, we will meet outside. A notice will be sent out that morning.

Tim Walter

Cell: 413-441-3295

## Friday Night Cafe

Summer 2022 Friday Night Cafe continues on June 10 with fingerstyle guitarist Larz Young. It will be an evening of blues, baritone, and tasty licks. Then, on June 24 join us for a double bill: the always soulful Jim K will take the first set and Brendan Leowolf's new outfit The Plants will close out the evening.

Showtime is 6:30–8:00 at the pavilion in Pettingill Memorial Park in beautiful downtown Cummington. BYO chairs, snacks, drinks. Once again brought to you by the friendly folks at the Village Church who believe music can be a powerful force for building community.

For personal, church needs or questions please contact Josh Wachtel at 634-5005 or leave a message at the church 634-5508.

To rent the church space for classes, concerts, meetings, etc., please call Scott at 413 320-6544. The church charges a very nominal fee for upkeep & heat. We love having the building used!!

The Goodwill Messenger, deadline for the July issue is June 27, 2022. Any personal news, an event, a business to promote with a paid advertisement or anything else worth noting please send to John at [mrbllooz@verizon.net](mailto:mrbllooz@verizon.net) or Pat at [patakeith@gmail.com](mailto:patakeith@gmail.com), mail to VCC, PO Box 76, Cummington, MA 01026 or leave it in the drop box, marked GWM located in the back entryway of the Village Church. Please be sure to include all the details, and a contact number in case we have questions.